



Seh Kui: Community is in The Heart

The Last Hoisan Poets & Del Sol Quartet

Saturday May 14, 2022, 1:50 pm - 2:40 pm

Japantown Peace Plaza, San Francisco, California

*Presented by the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center
as part of the 25th annual United States of Asian America Festival*



“*Seh Kui: Community is in the Heart*,” is new work created by the featured artists, THE LAST HOISAN POETS, Genny Lim, Flo Oy Wong and Nellie Wong, working in partnership with new voices – mentees Lynn Huang, Alaina Gupta, Karen Weller, with artistic contributions from Isidore Lu, Felicia Lee, Lilli Lanier and project manager Andi Wong.

Del Sol Quartet performs musical works by Asian American composers, including “*Embers*,” a world premiere composition by Charlton Lee.

“*Seh Kui: Community is in the Heart*,” celebrates community through intercultural and intergenerational artistic exchange.

Artists and community sharing space and power, united against hate, moving forward together with love.

A NOTE FROM GENNY

I want to thank APICC for the honor of commissioning me for this year’s festival. When thinking about the theme, *Generations of Power*, what came to mind were two things, family and community. My poetry was birthed in this city and supported by the AAPI community in joyous collaboration with artists, whose work embrace the hopes and struggles of this community or *Sei-kui*, in my native Hoisan dialect.

The title, *Seh Kui: Community is in the Heart*, was inspired by Carlos Bulosan’s classic Pilipino American novel, *America is in the Heart*, about a migrant laborer’s experience of US racism during the thirties. *Seh Kui* is dedicated to the generations of Asian Americans, like Bulosan, who built this country, not from rock and roll, but with rock, hammer, chisel, blood, sweat and bare hands.

We are the perpetual foreigner. The too-often overlooked, ignored, under-counted, under-represented, invisible Other— no matter American-born or immigrant. From the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 to the Japanese Concentration Camps of World War II to the burning grape and asparagus fields of the Central Valley where Pilipino laborers toiled, we have struggled, fought and resisted racism.

Our Country speaks to the vital agency of our individual and collective voices in speaking truth to power in dangerous times for social justice.

“Wovoka, the Paiute prophet who envisioned the Ghost Dance to rid foreign occupation said, “I stand up and this one of me becomes a hundred of me.” So today, I stand with my fellow artists to become hundreds of voices.

Seh Kui Presente!
Community is in the Heart.

社區 **Seh Kui: Community is in The Heart**

The Last Hoisan Poets & Del Sol Quartet

Saturday May 14, 2022, 1:50 pm - 2:40 pm

Japantown Peace Plaza, San Francisco, California

OPENING: SEH KUI

Program Introduction by GENNY LIM

Seh Kui: Community is in the Heart by THE LAST HOISAN POETS

Breaking Our Silence (For Janice Mirikitani) by GENNY LIM

From That Moment On by FLO OY WONG

Akoya - ERIKA OBA, composer

performed by DEL SOL QUARTET

OUR COUNTRY

Where is My Country? by NELLIE WONG

This is My Country by GENNY LIM

Elegy - HUANG RUO, composer

performed by DEL SOL QUARTET, dance by LYNN HUANG

GENERATIONS OF POWER

First Language Lesson - a choreo-poem by LYNN HUANG

Zapatos De Chinha - GABRIELA LENA FRANK, composer

performed by CHARLTON LEE, viola & KATHRYN BATES, cello, dance by LYNN HUANG

A Trio in Hoisan-wa & Hindi

Yelle, Yelle, Yelle, a Hoisan-wa nursery rhyme

Lakdi ki Kathi, Kathi ka Ghod, a Hindi children's song

performed by FLO OY WONG, ALAINA GUPTA & KAREN WELLER

with musical accompaniment by ISADORE LU

Tell These Hands by NELLIE WONG

SEH KUI: COMMUNITY

Embers *premiere* - CHARLTON LEE, composer

performed by CHARLTON LEE, viola & KATHRYN BATES, cello

Seh Kui: Community is in the Heart *premiere*

THE LAST HOISAN POETS, DEL SOL QUARTET & COMPANY

台山最後的詩人

THE LAST HOISAN POETS

Poets Genny Lim, Nellie Wong and Flo Oy Wong trace their roots to china's toisan villages, home of the Hoisan-wa (a.k.a. Toisanese/Taishanese) Chinese dialect. They conduct special poetry readings in English and Hoisan-wa, to pay homage to their mother language which is at risk of fading from collective memory. <https://thelasthoisanpoets.ddns.net>

Photo: Megan Wong



GENNY LIM is San Francisco Jazz Poet Laureate emeritus, born and raised in San Francisco to immigrant parents from the Kwantung region of Toisan, where an oral culture rich with folklore, natural medicine and healing songs was brought to America. The rhythms and music of the Toisan (Hoisan) language, find harmony of expression in the freedom of contemporary jazz and it is there, where Lim's voice has flourished. She is author of five poetry collections, *Winter Place*, *Child of War*, *Paper Gods and Rebels*, *KRA!*, *La Morte Del Tempo*, and co-author of *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island*, winner of the American Book Award and the forthcoming anthology of Senior Asian American memoirs, *Window: Glimpses of Our Storied Past*. Lim's award-winning play, *Paper Angels*, was the first Asian American play that aired on PBS's American Playhouse in 1985 and has been produced throughout the U.S., Canada and China. <https://gennylim.ddns.net/>

Photo: Megan Wong



At the age of 9, artist/poet/educator **FLO OY WONG**, a De Anza College alumni, knew that she loved words. A few years later, say 79 years, she has become a poet who uses English and her parents' native Chinese dialect to show and to tell her collected stories of family and community. A co-founder of the Asian American Women Artists Association, she has received three National Endowment for the Arts awards. In 2018, Flo celebrated her 80th birthday with the publication of her art & poetry book, *Dreaming of Glistening Pomeles*. Through her art and poetry she supports those who use their individual and collective voices for social justice. She stands by individuals and organizations who put diversity, equity, and inclusion into practice. As an elder, she connects with younger people who inspire her.

Photo: Megan Wong



Oakland Chinatown-born, **NELLIE WONG** has published four books: *Dreams in Harrison Railroad Park*, *The Death of Long Steam Lady*, *Stolen Moments* and *Breakfast Lunch Dinner*. Her poems and essays appear in numerous journals and anthologies. Two pieces are installed at public sites in San Francisco. She's co-featured in the documentary film, *"Mitsuye and Nellie Asian American Poets,"* and among her recognitions, a building at Oakland High School is named after her. A poem of hers was nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She's traveled to China in the First American Women Writers Tour with Alice Walker, Tillie Olsen and Paule Marshall, among others. She's taught poetry writing at Mills College and in Women Studies at the University of Minnesota.



Photo: AFW Productions

DEL SOL QUARTET

Fascinated by the feedback loop between social change, technology, and artistic innovation, the San Francisco-based Del Sol Quartet is a leading force in 21st-century chamber music. They believe that live music can, and should, happen anywhere – whether introducing Ben Johnston’s microtonal Americana at the Library of Congress or in a canyon cave, taking Aeryn Santillan’s gun-violence memorial to the streets of the Mission District, or collaborating with Huang Ruo and the anonymous Chinese poets who carved their words into the walls of the Angel Island Immigration Station.

Since 1992, Del Sol has commissioned or premiered thousands of works by composers including Terry Riley, Gabriela Lena Frank, Tania León, Frederic Rzewski, Vijay Iyer, Mason Bates, Michael Harrison, Huang Ruo, Pamela Z, Chinari Ung, Chen Yi, Erberk Eryilmaz, Theresa Wong, Reza Vali, and Kui Dong. The quartet regularly works with composers through workshops, universities, as well as Del Sol commissioning and incubator programs. They especially value their ongoing relationship with the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music in Boonville, CA.

Del Sol’s eleventh album “*A Dust in Time*” debuted at #3 on Billboard in October 2021. Called “excavations of beauty from the elemental” (NY Times), this hour-long meditation was released in the form of a coloring book. Their previous album “*Kooch-e Khamân*” (February 2021) features 7 new works by young Iranian composers and charted #5 on Billboard. In the 2021-2022 season, Del Sol continues its *Joy Project*, performing outdoor pop-ups around the Bay Area of music written to inspire joy. They also are producing two large projects: “*The Angel Island Project*,” an immigration-themed oratorio by Chinese American composer Huang Ruo, and “*Between Worlds of Sound*,” a collaboration with North Indian musicians Alam Khan & Arjun Verma. In 2021, the quartet were featured artists at the Venice Biennale’s Arts Letter and Numbers Pavilion. They are current artists on the ImmerSphere roster, a groundbreaking platform that produces performances in augmented reality.

Benjamin Kreith & Samuel Weiser, violins

Charlton Lee, viola

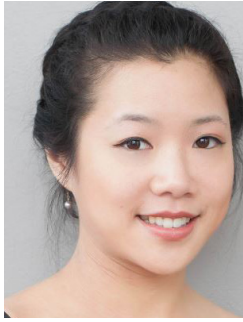
Kathryn Bates, cello

www.delsolquartet.com

@delsolquartet

ARTISTS

社區 SEH KUI: COMMUNITY IS IN THE HEART



LYNNETTE HUANG trained in modern dance, ballet, and Chinese dance. She graduated from Barnard College of Columbia University with a degree in English and was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to study dance at Minzu University in Beijing, China. She has been performing with Lenora Lee Dance in San Francisco since 2013. She is so honored to be part of this program and to learn from Genny Lim. www.lynnhuang.com



ALAINA GUPTA is 10 years old and lives in San Jose, CA. Alaina has always loved reading and writing and thanks to encouragement from her 2nd Grade Teacher, Ms. Weller & the renowned poet, Flo Oy Wong, she picked up poetry in 2nd grade. She recited her poem, “*Hope During Pandemic*,” on the KQED Radio. Her poem was also featured as part of the new public art project, “*Hope and Solace*” at the De Anza College, Cupertino. Her first set of poems was recently published as “*A Potpourri of Playful Poems*” on Amazon, and she hopes to continue writing in the coming years and bringing people together.



KAREN WELLER is a retired elementary school teacher from San Jose. Her aunt, Flo Oy Wong, has shared her creativity over the years. When Karen realized that Alaina, her third grade student during the pandemic had a gift of writing, she knew who to make a connection with to further her love of learning - Auntie Flo! Lessons ensued, laughter was shared, and rich stories of culture were learned. Karen has since relocated to the Pacific North West, but the connections with Alaina and Aunt Flo remain strong, true, and authentic.



ISIDORE LU is a graduating senior at Lowell High School in San Francisco, who loves interdisciplinary work, including music production, cello, dance, theater, classics, and art. He is attending Carnegie Mellon University next fall and majoring in Music & Technology.



ANDI WONG loves learning and artistic adventures. She has worked in San Francisco public schools as teaching artist, site arts coordinator and technology instructor. As project coordinator for ArtsEd4All, she hosts film screenings, plays with The Blue Marbles Project and organizes participatory community events like the annual Blake Mini Library book drive for the Hamilton Families shelter. Her creative partners include Marcus Shelby, First Voice, the Internet Archive, and the incredible dream team: The Last Hoisan Poets & Del Sol Quartet. <https://artsed4all.blog>

COMPOSERS

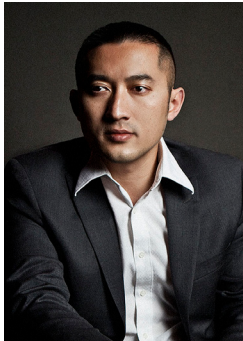
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Photo: Ben Tarquin



Berkeley Playhouse's Youth Conservatory Program. In addition to her own private teaching studio, she is a private jazz piano instructor for UC Berkeley's Music Department. <https://erikaoba.com/>

Photo: Wenjun Miakoda Liang



HUANG RUO has been lauded by the New Yorker as "one of the world's leading young composers" and by the New York Times for having "a distinctive style." His vibrant and inventive musical voice draws equal inspiration from Chinese ancient and folk music, Western avant-garde, experimental, noise, natural and processed sound, rock, and jazz. As a member of the new generation of Chinese composers, his goal is not just to mix both Western and Eastern elements, but also to create a seamless, organic integration. Huang Ruo's diverse compositional works span from orchestra, chamber music, opera, theater, and dance, to cross-genre, sound installation, multi-media, experimental improvisation, folk rock, and film. <https://huangruo.com/>

Photo: Mariah Tauger



GABRIELA LENA FRANK is currently serving as Composer-in-Residence with the storied Philadelphia Orchestra and included in the Washington Post's list of the 35 most significant women composers in history (August, 2017), identity has always been at the center of composer/pianist Gabriela Lena Frank's music. Born in Berkeley, California (September, 1972), to a mother of mixed Peruvian/Chinese ancestry and a father of Lithuanian/Jewish descent, Gabriela explores her multicultural heritage through her compositions. In 2017, Gabriela founded the award-winning Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music, a non-profit training institution held on her two rural properties in Boonville, CA for emerging composers from a vast array of demographics and aesthetics. <https://www.glfcam.com/>

Photo: Lenny Gonzalez



CHARLTON LEE Born in Berkeley during the Free Speech Movement, a couple years in the New England Conservatory Prep, surviving a fall while cliff climbing as a teen in Los Alamos, New Mexico, back to Berkeley for a degree in math and physics, working on an experimental physics group at Fermilab, backpacking for months across Europe, starting music school, visiting China during Tiananmen events in 1989, getting a Masters in Music from SFCM and starting Del Sol in 1992.

<https://www.delsolquartet.com/charlton>

GENERATIONS OF POWER

“There is power and then there is true power. When shared, transferred and transmitted, from generation to generation, power becomes communal, even sacred.”

— GENNY LIM



Genny Lim uses Zoom to conduct her Memoir Writing Workshop in 2022 with class participants, including Lynn Huang (at far right)

Dancer, Lynn Huang, wrote *First Chinese Language Lesson* in Genny Lim's APICC Zoom Memoir Writing Workshop. She performed her choreo-poem for the USAAF 2022 Showcase audiences for the very first time. Lynn also created the [*Community is in the Heart gesture*](#) for this performance.

[*Memory, Meaning and Memoir 2022*](#), led by poet-playwright, Genny Lim presents readings by a diverse, intergenerational, cross-section of writers, who include visual artists, educators, activists and professionals from the AAPI community, sharing their stories and poems, ranging from immigration stories and family memoir to gender and racial oppression, anti-Asian hate and police violence, written during the course. The online APICC workshops met every week, throughout the pandemic. All levels and ages, from emerging to advanced writers, were welcomed and encouraged to explore and develop their individual voices and craft in a safe and communal atmosphere that allowed for constructive critique, dialogue, mutual support and growth.



Flo & Alaina's very first in-person meeting was an outdoor rehearsal for their performance. Prior to this moment, the two worked together with Karen on Zoom.

Karen Weller and Alaina Gupta were invited by Flo Oy Wong to share a poetry exchange - a Chinese nursery rhyme and a Hindi children's song. When Flo grew up in Oakland Chinatown during the 1940s, she learned to recite 'Yelle, Yelle, Yelle,' a Chinese poem talks about rowing a boat to grandmother's house. Alaina taught Flo and Karen a Hindi children's song, 'Lakdi ki Kathi, Kathi ka Ghod,' about a horse and a wooden cart from the 1983 Bollywood film, 'Masoom.' The song is a favorite of generations of South East Asian children. They hum the lyrics and play with make-believe horses and castles. Alaina's parents, Mayank and Priyanka, chose this song as a testimony to sharing similarities, which outweigh differences.

Nellie Wong's, *Tell These Hands* links our generations through song and deed, hems and silks, from China to Asia America. Ding Ling taught Nellie. She still does.

Nellie writes, "Ding Ling was a prolific author of revolutionary China. Her early short stories focusing on young Chinese women greatly influenced the world of socialist and feminist literature. One of her notable works, "When I Was in Xia Village," inspired several of my own poems. How fortunate to meet my literary heroine during the First American Women Writers Tour to China in 1983."



Ding Ling, 1930's. Her short story, *When I Was in Xia Village*, was written in 1940

社區 SEH KUI: COMMUNITY IS IN THE HEART



Janice Mirikitani joins the protest in front of the International Hotel in San Francisco, January 1977.
Photo by Nancy Wong



The California Japantown Landmark in the Japantown Peace Plaza features three generations of Japanese Americans dancing at Obon and Janice Mirikitani's poem, "The Promise."

*Footsteps lead to destiny.
We dance honoring ancestors
who claim our home
and freedom to pursue our dreams.
Our voices carve a path for justice.
Equal rights for all.
We prevail.
Our future harvested from generations.
From my life
opens countless lives.
The Journey continues...*

JANICE MIRIKITANI

*Two books, **Shedding Silence** and **Out of the Dust** include Mirikitani's poem, "Breaking Silence," with the note, "After 40 years of silence about the experience of Japanese Americans in US concentration camps, my mother testified before the Commission of Wartime Relocation and Internment of Japanese American Civilians in 1981."*

"When Janice Mirikitani passed away a year ago, there was a void in our community. Her legacy of healing, racial unity and social justice through her work at Glide Memorial with her partner, Reverend Cecil Williams, inspired people all over the world. As a poet, Janice was a mentor, friend and powerful voice for the voiceless, particularly for women and the AAPI community."

— GENNY LIM

***Shedding Silence: Poetry and Prose* by Janice Mirikitani, 1987 (Celestial Arts)**

Janice dedicated this book to Cecil and four generations of women, Janice's grandmother Ichi Inouye, mother Shigemi and daughter Tianne.

<https://archive.org/details/sheddingsilence00miri/>

***Out of the dust : new and selected poems* by Janice Mirikitani, 2014 (Honolulu : University of Hawaii Press in association with UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Los Angeles)**

<https://archive.org/details/outofdustnewsele00miri/>

***What matters : young writers and artists speak out* Edited by Janice Mirikitani, 2004 (Glide Word Press)**

<https://archive.org/details/whatmattersyoung00miri/mode/1up>

***Through our voices : an anthology of poems from poets in the galleries*, edited by Genny Lim, 1990 (San Francisco : Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco)**

<https://archive.org/details/throughourvoices00limgrich>

***I myself am a woman : selected writings of Ding Ling* by Ding, Ling, 1904-; Barlow, Tani E; Bjorge, Gary J, editors, 1989 (Beacon Press) <https://archive.org/details/imyselfamwomanse00ding/>**

***Densho: Mitsuye and Nellie: Asian American Poets (film) Resource Guide* [https://resourceguide.densho.org/Mitsuye%20and%20Nellie:%20Asian%20American%20Poets%20\(film\)/](https://resourceguide.densho.org/Mitsuye%20and%20Nellie:%20Asian%20American%20Poets%20(film)/)**

Mitsuye and Nellie on Women Make Movies website:
<http://www.wmm.com/filmcatalog/pages/c315.shtml>

***The Death of Long Steam Lady* by Nellie Wong, 1986. Los Angeles, CA : West End Press**
<https://archive.org/details/deathoflongsteam0000wong>



RUTH ASAWA

With precision
and freedom, rain
With wind, storm and sun
Fomenting peace
As Noguchi said,
Everything
Is
Sculpture.
Even her name.

— NELLIE WONG

In response to the art of Ruth Asawa
being commemorated on US postage
stamps. April 6, 2020



After her grandmother taught her how to make an origami necklace, Lilli Lanier made the piece (top) for her grandmother. Her grandmother drew this picture (bottom) as a thank you note in return.

Inspired by Del Sol's rendition of Erika Oba's *Akoya*, Lilli created origami necklaces using different Japanese origami papers from her favorite place — Paper Tree — a special keepsake for each of the poets and their mentees. Visit Lilli's Instagram page to see the special batch of origami necklaces.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CdeviPir42A/>

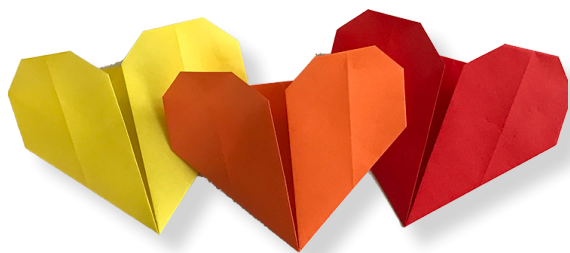


LILLI LANIER, granddaughter of artist Ruth Asawa, was born and raised in San Francisco. She attended the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts and graduated from California College of the Arts in 2007 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. Lilli works in a variety of mediums and specializes in large-scale origami portraits. Her work has been shown at a variety of venues, including the Oakland Museum of California and SOMArts Cultural Center in San Francisco. For the past twenty years, Lilli has taught art in public schools, museums, libraries and community centers. In 2018, she was honored by the Golden State Warriors with the NBA Community Playmaker Award in recognition of her positive impact on the community. <http://www.lillilanianer.com>

社區

Please take home a *Community is in the Heart* sticker inside a folded origami heart!

FELICIA LEE enjoys the process of creating art through experimentation, exploring ideas, and creating cross-disciplinary design. Currently a student curriculum developer for Industrial Design Outreach, she has participated in their mask, shoe, and lamp design projects. She created a coloring book for the Del Sol Quartet's album *"A Dust in Time,"* inspired by mandalas and palindromes, which has received international accolades. A high school student at San Francisco's Lowell High School, Felicia likes math dance, and listening to and playing classical music. She will participate in Carnegie Mellon University's pre-college design program this summer.



Lilli's Lanier's grandmother taught her how to fold origami when she was a child, and one of her favorite memories is going to get paper at Paper Tree with grandma.

She remembers that Ruth made her promise that she would always buy her origami paper at Paper Tree.

Ruth Asawa supported family-owned businesses and kept her community in her heart.

Be sure to visit the Mihara family shop on Buchanan Mall and enjoy the amazing origami, learn a new fold, and participate in Paper Tree's "Hearts for Love" Community Project by folding an origami heart.

Paper Tree <https://paper-tree.com/>

Ruth Asawa's Public Art Tour : Listen to stories from Asawa's family and friends, as you view her public art in the San Francisco Bay Area, including the Origami Fountains in Japantown.

<https://ruthasawa.com/ruth-asawas-public-art-tour/>

Spark: Ruth Asawa : KQED : See how renowned sculptor Ruth Asawa has passed along her love of art to her family. Original air date: May 2005.

https://archive.org/details/podcast_kqed-spark-art-video-podcast_spark-ruth-asawa_1000059823315

Spark: Flo Oy Wong: KQED : See how Flo Oy Wong finds the inspiration to become an artist in the history of Asian Americans. Original air date: September 2003.

https://archive.org/details/podcast_kqed-spark-art-video-podcast_spark-flo-oy-wong_1000083620683

"HEARTS FOR LOVE" Community Project



There is a crisis today. Many Asians, including our most vulnerable, have become the target of hate crimes. Join me in folding 1,000 Origami Hearts as a show of support to the families of those victims who lost their loved ones.
Let's counter HATE with LOVE!

Folding 1,000 Origami Hearts is a spin on the tradition of folding 1,000 origami cranes in order to realize a wish. I embrace this tradition by folding 1,000 HEARTS as show of LOVE - the human emotion which can counter HATE & create POSITIVITY.



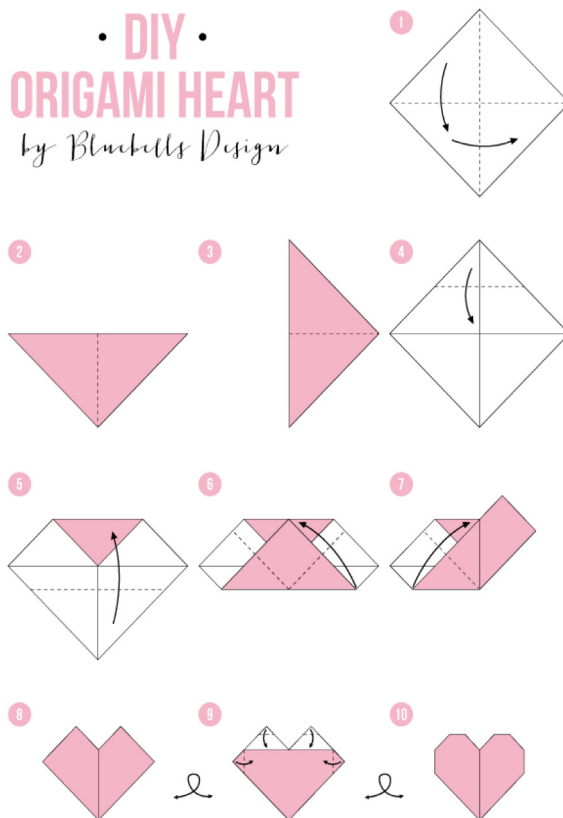
Paper Tree
San Francisco

GOFOLDME.COM



1. Support our new goal by creating your OWN HEART and displaying it in your front window! Whether it's one heart or many making up a larger display, we want to see it! SEND A PICTURE TO HEARTSFORLOVE@PAPER-TREE.COM.
2. Fold a RED HEART out of the template provided at GoFoldMe.com! Fold additional hearts out of any color (except solid red), preferably out of 6" x 6" paper, then write wishes of hope and positivity on the front. Send/bring them to Paper Tree at 1743 Buchanan Street, SF, CA 94115. They will be added to the large heart in the front window display.
3. Share this page with your friends and family. Let's go WORLDWIDE! Tag us on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter @papertreesf!

DIY ORIGAMI HEART by Bluebells Design





**GENERATIONS OF POWER
FORGING COMMUNITY BONDS**
USA AF 2022 Performing Arts Showcase

12:15-1:00PM | Opening Remarks

12:15-1:00PM | "Sugilanon-Sarita" by Autonomous Region

**1:00-1:50PM | "Love & Unity: Choreographer's Showcase"
by Asian American Dance Performances**

**1:50-2:40PM | "Seh Kui: Community is in the Heart"
by The Last Hoisan Poets & Del Sol Quartet**

2:40-2:55PM | "Return of the Sun" by First Voice

2:55-3:20PM | "Youth Rising" by Leela Youth Dance Company

3:20-4:00PM | groundwater/chikasui 地下水 by tashi tamate weiss

